(d) what steps Government have taken to avoid recurrence of such incidents in the State;

(e) whether Government have started any political process in recent past to ensure peace in the Kashmir Valley; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYA SAGAR RAO): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. In the aftermath of the terrorist attack on the Jammu & Kashmir Assembly complex at Srinagar, the State Government has reported to have taken various measures to strengthen the security of vulnerable places prone to such attacks. These measures include a more rigorous patrolloing and access control; stronger barricading; indcution of sophisticated gadgetry for detection of explosives; improved communication network; etc.

Between 01.10.2001 (when this incident took place) and 15.11.2001, 90 militants/suspects have been apprehended. During this very period, 367 militants (including 93 foreign mercenaries) have also been killed.

(e) and (f) Besies appointing Shri K.C. Pant as Government of India's Principal Interlocutor with all groups and outfits in Jammu & Kashmir, the Government has kept its doors open for talks with all those who are ready to eschew the path of violence.

Death of main accused of Bofors Scam

*53. SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN:
SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some of the main accused in the fifteen years old Bofors Scam investigation case are no longer alive;

(b) if so, who are the main accused in the case, who have died in between; and

(c) what is Government's decision on the question of proceeding with the case?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The charge sheet in the Bofors case was filed on 22nd October, 1999. One of the accused, Shri S.K. Bhatnagar died on 4.8.2001 and another one, Shri W.N. Chadha, died on 24.10.2001. Shri Rajiv Gandhi's name was mentioned in column 2 of the charge sheet as he was not sent up for trial, having expired already.

The case is sub-judice.

Problem of insurgency in North-East

*54. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to news-item which appeared in the Hindustan Times on 4th October, 2001, captioned "Bangladesh Poll Results Worry Insurgency-Ridden North-East".

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to address the problem of insurgency in the North-East as highlighted in the newspaper?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (d) According to available information, there are camps in some of our neighbouring countries including Bangladesh which are being used by many militant groups active in the North-East as safe havens and sanctuaries and for training purposes. The Government of India has taken up the matter regarding such camps with the Government of Bangladesh at various fora and on several occasions. The Government of Bangladesh has assured that they would not allow undersirable elements to use their territory for activities prejudicial to the interests of India.

The Government has also taken various measures to deal